

universities across the country renowned for their scholarship and social conscience.

Perhaps their greatest gifts to America have been a abiding love of liberty, and an patriotic spirit. Irish Americans have served with distinction in every American conflict, from the Revolutionary War to the Persian Gulf, and their keen sense of social justice made them among the first and most effective voices for labor reform. From Mary Kenney O'Sullivan to George Meany, they have been in the vanguard of efforts to improve working conditions and wages for all Americans. Generations of Irish Americans entered public service to reach out to those in need—to feed the poor, find jobs for the unemployed, fight for racial equality, and champion social reform. From the Kennedys of Massachusetts to the Daleys of Chicago, from Governor Al Smith to Ambassador Mike Mansfield, Americans of Irish descent have made important and enduring contributions to the public life of our Nation.

The United States continues to draw strength and vision from our multicultural, multiracial society. This month, when citizens across the country celebrate Saint Patrick's Day, we remember with special gratitude the gifts of Irish Americans: faith in God, love of family and community, and an unswerving commitment to freedom and justice that continues to enrich our Nation and fulfill the promise envisioned by the first Irish immigrants who turned their eyes and hearts toward America so many years ago.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 1998 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-seventh day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:34 a.m., March 2, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 3.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 21

In the afternoon, the President met with his foreign policy team to discuss the situation in Iraq. In the evening, he and Hillary Clinton attended an NBA basketball game at the MCI Center.

February 23

The President announced that Federal disaster aid was made available to the victims of tornadoes in central Florida. In addition, Federal aid was made available for families and businesses in 11 central Florida counties struck by earlier storms.

February 24

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael J. Copps to be Assistant Secretary for Trade Development at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to nominate Deidre A. Lee to serve as Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy at the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ruth Y. Goldway to serve as Commissioner on the Postal Rate Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate William C. Apgar to be Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sue Bailey to be Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to appoint Warren B. Rudman as Chair of the Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents.

February 25

In the morning, the President traveled to Kissimmee, FL, and in the afternoon, he traveled to San Francisco, CA.

February 26

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Oakland, CA. Later, he traveled to Salt Lake City, UT.

The President announced his intention to nominate Q. Todd Dickinson to be Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Commissioner of the Patent and Trademark Office at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced that four additional California counties, hard hit by torrential rain, are eligible for Federal disaster assistance.

February 27

The President announced his intention to appoint Michael Lewan as member and Chair and Edgar Gluck as a member of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 23

Raymond L. Bramucci,
of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Timothy M. Barnicle, resigned.

Seth D. Harris,
of New York, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, vice Maria Echaveste, resigned.

Patrick A. Mulloy,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Charles F. Meissner.

Withdrawn February 23

John Warren McGarry,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2001, which was sent to the Senate on January 7, 1997.

Submitted February 24

Melvin R. Wright,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Henry Harold Kennedy, Jr., elevated.

Submitted February 25

William C. Apgar, Jr.,
of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Michael A. Stegman, resigned.

Sue Bailey,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Stephen C. Joseph, resigned.

Michael J. Copps,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, vice Raymond E. Vickery, Jr., resigned.

Ruth Y. Goldway,
of California, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission for a term expiring November 22, 2002, vice Edward J. Quick, Jr., term expired.

Deidre A. Lee,
of Oklahoma, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, vice Steven Kelman, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as